

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
870 Moraine Street
Marshfield, MA 02050

MARSHFIELD'S COVID – 19 TASK FORCE UPDATE

April 24, 2020

Task Force: Police, Fire, Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Emergency Operation Center, Town Administrator, Schools, DPW and Council on Aging.

To All Marshfield Residents:

This update is intended to inform Marshfield residents and visitors that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is reporting that as of April 24, 2020 there are at least 374 cases of those identified with the virus AND persons who have been in contact with confirmed COVID-19 cases and who were directed to self-quarantine.

The number of confirmed cases in Marshfield is 88.

The Town of Marshfield Board of Health, in an effort to be completely transparent to our residents, is reporting a number count not only of confirmed cases but also suspected cases of Covid-19 per the DPH Maven database. This is different from most communities who are publishing only the number of confirmed cases. We feel this approach minimizes the extent of this issue.

Daily update BOH
Update on Contact Tracing

On April 3, the Baker-Polito Administration announced an initiative to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts through contact tracing. Working with Partners in Health, Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to develop a program to trace individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 as well as their immediate contacts who may have been exposed to the virus. Through a team of leading medical experts working with the Department of Public Health, this program has already hired 176 employees to do contact tracing by phone, and hundreds of additional staff will be trained and on board in the coming weeks.

Residents who receive a phone call from the Contact Tracing Collaborative are urged to take the call and provide the relevant information.

I also want to remind residents that all recreational facilities in the Town of Marshfield are closed to the public except the beaches to protect the public from the further spread of COVID-19 to our residents.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Governor Baker announced yesterday, schools in Massachusetts, both public and private will be closed for the remainder of the academic year.

TREASURER COLLECTOR INFORMATION

Below you will find the necessary paper work to request a hardship waiver from the Town of Marshfield for real estate taxes, excise taxes and utility bills.



TOWN OF MARSHFIELD
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-COLLECTOR
870 MORAIN STREET MARSHFIELD, MA 02050

COVID -19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVERS

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____
ADDRESS OF APPLICANT: _____
DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

PROOF OF HARDSHIP – PLEASE MARK “X”:

UNEMPLOYMENT APPLICATION:

PROOF OF CLOSED BUSINESS:

MEDICAL WAIVER:

TYPE OF BILL (S) NEEDING RELIEF – PLEASE MARK “X”

REAL ESTATE TAXES:

EXCISE TAXES:

UTILITY BILLS:

BELOW SECTION IS FOR TOWN OF MARSHFIELD STAFF

APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED ON: _____

APPLICATION WAS APPROVED BY: _____

APPLICATION WAS DENIED BY: _____

REASON: _____

REQUESTED APPEAL TO TOWN ADMINISTRATOR BY PATRICK DELLORUSSO ON: _____



TOWN OF MARSHFIELD
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-COLLECTOR
870 MORaine STREET
MARSHFIELD MA 02050

FREQUENTLY ASKED COVID-19 QUESTIONS ANSWERED BELOW

Is there someone working today?

The Treasurer-Collector office has been open and responding to residents each day during the crisis and ensuring the Town has the resources it needs to provide safety and services. We will continue this mission.

You may always email questions to pdellorusso@townofmarshfield.org this will get you a response very quickly.

BEST WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILLS:

- Please visit our website and select the "FIND IT FAST" option
- Next select online bill payments and enter your bill information
- If you do not have your bill information, please email pdellorusso@townofmarshfield.org and the Treasurer will make sure you are responded to within 24 hours
- You may also call the main line at 781-834-5548 and someone will return your call within 24 hours as we have limited staff and they will guide you on how to make a payment online.
- You may mail in your payments with the remittance coupon to the lockbox provider.
- You may drop your payment off in the mail drop slot located near the handicap ramp at the front of Town Hall when you walk up from the parking lot. You may call for further instructions.
- You may also mail payments directly to our office at:

870 Moraine Street, Marshfield MA, 02050 Attn: Collector

REAL ESTATE TAXES:

- The tax deadline for quarter four (4) real estate bills will not be changed from its dead line of May 1st.
- If a resident has been impacted by the COVID-19 virus they may like all other delinquent tax payers set up a re-payment plan with the Tax office.
- All payments must be current by 6-30-20 by vote of the Board of Selectman. Any payment not received by then will be subject to interest.
- If you do not notify the tax office of your inability to pay you will be assessed interest and fees in accordance with the Law.
- There will be no refunds of any interest or demands
 - You must show proof of your COVID-19 impact i.e. unemployment application and acceptance and or termination notice. The Treasurer will examine each request for a hardship arrangement on a case by case basis in accordance with the Board of Selectman Vote.
- The Town will be issuing demand and bills normally and it is the responsibility of the homeowner to show proof of hardship. **Demand bills will be issued 6-1-2020** to all accounts with a balance on record, and Tax liens will follow in line with normal collection action after this date.

UTILITY BILLS:

- The deadlines for the utilities bills are 30 days after issuance
- The Town of Marshfield in line with the Governor's Order will not be terminating utility services until an undetermined time after 6-30-2020.
- All balances must be current by 6-30-2020
- Failure to pay your bill will result in the utility charges being added to your tax bill as a utility lien next year while incurring interest and fees per MGL.
- There will be no refunds of any interest or demands
 - You must show proof of your COVID-19 impact i.e. unemployment application and acceptance and or termination notice. The Treasurer will examine each request for a hardship arrangement on a case by case basis in accordance with the Board of Selectman Vote.
- If you do not notify the tax office of your inability to pay you will be assessed interest and fees in accordance with the Law.
- If a resident has been impacted by the COVID-19 virus they may like all other delinquent tax payers set up a re-payment plan with the Tax office.
- The Town will be issuing demands and bills normally and it is the responsibility of the resident to show proof of a hardship.

EXCISE TAXES:

- Excise taxes will not be sent to collections until 6-30-2020; however interest will accrue on all delinquent balances and unless hardship is show, will not be waived.
- Excise taxes issued after 3-20-20 will not receive demands until 6-30-2020
- Marshfield Excise tax bills for commitment #1 were issued prior to the Declaration of emergency and are not subject to hardship waivers by law.
 - However Marshfield will if a resident is able to show proof of a COVID-19 impact i.e. unemployment application and acceptance and or termination notice. The Treasurer will examine each request for a hardship arrangement on a case by case basis in accordance with the Board of Selectman Vote.

The Treasurer's Office looks forward to remaining open for business and is here to help any resident who needs it and will remain fair and consistent while understanding the unique situations of all.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office for anything and we will get you the answers your looking for!!!1

Patrick D. Dello Russo JR.
Treasurer Collector
Town of Marshfield

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSCHUSETTS**TOWN OF MARSHFIELD****BOARD OF HEALTH**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Board of Selectmen determined, in consultation with the federal, state and local public health officials, that COVID-19 poses a significant, immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of people residing both within and outside the Town of Marshfield, and, as such, declared a Local State of Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued an Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Certain Workplaces, and Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People (COVID-19 Order No. 13), which order was revised and extended on March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Marshfield Town Hall remains closed to the public until after May 4, 2020, and unnecessary physical contact between town officials and residents of Marshfield must be avoided to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS on April 21, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued an Order extending the closure of public and private schools through the end of this school year in order to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to our authority as the Board of Health of the Town under the above-referenced declarations of a local state of public health emergency, the applicable provisions of Mass. Gen. L. c. 111 §31, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, we, the Board of Health hereby order the following:

1. All members of the public entering any Essential Business as defined by Governor Baker's COVID-19 Executive Orders, including without limitation, grocery stores, pharmacies, home improvement stores, and similar business, must wear a cloth face covering, such as a fabric mask, scarf or bandana over his or her nose or mouth. The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N95 respirators, which should be reserved for use for medical professionals and first responders.
2. All members of the public entering a restaurant or take-out food facility for the purpose of picking up food or beverages must wear a cloth face covering.
3. All employees of all Essential Businesses, as defined above, shall wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when interacting with the public and within six (6) feet of a co-worker. Employers and employees must use prescribed protocols and guidelines for personal protective equipment such as glove.
4. Any resident or member of the general public entering or exiting a residential or commercial building complex of greater than one (1) unit must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while in common areas and communal spaces and must exercise social distancing in these spaces in accordance with CDC guidelines.

THIS EMERGENCY ORDER SHALL BE EFFECTIVE BEGINNING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020 AT 12:01AM AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL NOTICE IS GIVEN, PURSUANT TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH'S JUDGMENT THAT A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY NO LONGER EXISTS.

This Order shall be enforced by the Board of Health officials. Individuals who violate the provisions of this Emergency Order are subject to warnings/fines issued by the enforcing authority as follows: (1) first offense – a warning; (2) second offense – a fine of \$50; (3) third offense and subsequent offenses \$100.

SIGNED THIS 22th DAY OF APRIL, 2020

MARSHFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Tyler Nims, Chairman, Board of Health
Mark MacDonald, Vice-Chairman, Board of Health
Paul Armstrong, Member, Board of Health

MASK INFORMATION

When wearing a mask in public make sure it is made of a solid surface. Cloth face coverings can be fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost.

“Cloth face coverings should—

- Be made of a solid surface such as cotton (not a knit surface)
- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

Fire Department:

Anyone experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID – 19 such as difficulty breathing or chest pain should call 911 and activate EMS. Other minor symptoms, including a low grade fever, you should call your PCP for recommended treatment. Most cases with minor to moderate symptoms can be safely managed at home without going to the hospital. As always, with any other medical emergencies, call 911 and activate EMS right away.

MOST IMPORTANTLY RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU MAY BE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 VIRUS DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU NEED TO CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) OF PERSONS WHO BECOME EXPOSED WILL BE ABLE TO

MANAGE THEIR CARE ON THEIR OWN AND BY CONTACTING THEIR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.

HERE ARE THE BOARD OF HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDICAL CARE:

Call **911** for **severe** shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. The Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) says do not wait for the results of a COVID-19 test to call 911.

Call a health care provider for shortness of breath or other serious symptoms. DPH says to continue to self-isolate if symptoms are becoming more severe.

For people with mild symptoms:

Early on, symptoms may feel like a common cold, including a combination of cough, body aches, fatigue, and chest tightness.

People who are not at high risk of severe illness may not need to be evaluated in-person or tested for COVID-19. Not everyone with symptoms or who may have been exposed to COVID-19 will be tested right away.

If you have mild symptoms including a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or suspect that you were exposed but are not able to be immediately tested, please stay home and avoid contact with others. Isolate yourself until:

- * You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that's 3 days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)

AND

- * other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)

AND

- * At least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Use over-the-counter medication to treat mild symptoms.

There is currently no specific treatment for COVID-19.

The 911 system is not intended for minor injuries or general medical questions. DPH says those seeking general advice or wishing to be tested for COVID-19 should not call 911.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that Massachusetts 2-1-1, a 24-hour telephone hotline, will now provide real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages. <https://mass211.org/> and www.Buoy.com/mass for residents to check their symptoms and connect with the next appropriate health care resource

MARSHFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Tyler Nims, Chairman, Board of Health
Mark MacDonald, Vice-Chairman, Board of Health
Paul Armstrong, Member, Board of Health
Robert Valery, Director of Public Health

The BOH has ensured that Local Supermarkets are following the directive to limit the number of people in each facility at one time. **Now it is time to do your part.** Plan your trip and try to shop alone. **Shopping is not a social event** and should only be done when it is time to get a proper supply of foods and essential items (resist the one item temptations, the Twinkies' can wait). The **workers** in these establishments are **essential personnel** and deserve our respect for their service. Please observe the social distancing of 6' from other shoppers and staff while they perform the tasks that provide us with the foods we need. Follow the arrows guiding traffic patterns as you go through the store. When standing in line outside the building social distances also applies.

Personal protective equipment, or PPE: protects its user against any physical harm or hazards that the environment may present **ONLY WHEN USED CORRECTLY!** People often get a false sense of security when using and forget.

- There is no substitute for proper hand washing/sanitizing and be mindful to do so before and after use.
- Understand how to use and remove the PPE. (improper use can do more harm than good)
- Please properly dispose of the PPE after use.

Buoy Health's new online resource: for residents to check their symptoms and connect with the next appropriate health care resource. This tool does not replace emergency medical care, but it may be used as a support for residents during the COVID-19 outbreak to connect them with appropriate health care resources if they display coronavirus symptoms. Buoy Health's online 24/7 tool is free for Massachusetts residents and uses current COVID-19 guidance from the CDC and DPH. As always, your first choice is to contact your own health care provider. Buoy's online tool is not to be used in place of emergency medical care. If this is an emergency, call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room.

www.Buoy.com/mass

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that Massachusetts 2-1-1., a 24-hour telephone hotline, will now provide real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages. <https://mass211.org/>

Additional updated information from MEMA on COVID-19:

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-emergency-management-agency>

General Information:

Please remember to wear personal protective gear when out in the public. When you are through with the protective gear, please remember to properly dispose of them.

One final thought or suggestion! You might want to call and check on an elderly neighbor or family member to make sure they are okay. We know these are very difficult times, but remember to cherish each moment spent with loved ones.

Very truly yours,
Michael A. Maresco
Town Administrator

P.S. The pinnacle of the steeple on the top of Town Hall will be lit in red to recognize and thank our first responders.